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SOCCEROOS

Remember when that guy was lining up a PENALTY KICK, and YOU were thinking, MISS, MISS,

MISS? And then hekickedand heMissed.

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SOCCER AUSTRALIA CHAIRMAN

David Hill's World Cup Message

The 1998 World Cup in France is just one-year away. The Australian World Cup team, under the stewardship of coach Terry Venables, is entering the Oceania World Cup qualifiers confident of landing a place in France.

Much progress has been made at local and national level in Australian soccer and without doubt the Socceroos are embarking on their most exciting World Cup campaign since 1974.

The standard of Australian soccer has improved dramatically over the last decade. The very fact that superstars like Mark Bosnich, Paul Okon, Ned Zelic and Aurelio Vidmar are enjoying major success with European-based sides is an indication of the ever-improving international recognition Australian soccer receives.

All in all, there is nothing quite like the World Cup. Qualifying for France '98 would give not only the final Socceroo World Cup squad international exposure but also further establish Australia as a major force in the world game.

It is pleasing to reflect that during the World Cup qualifiers Australian soccer will receive increased media exposure.

SBS television, the host broadcaster for the World Cup, will continue to bring to the homes of all sports fans an analysis of all World Cup qualifying matches. On top of this, other media outlets have expressed interest in profiling Australia's World Cup mission.

I take this opportunity to thank all sports fans for their support and urge all Australians to get behind the Socceroos in their quest to walk on the world soccer stage next year in France.

THE ROAD TO FRANCE '98

- 172 countries entered the 1998 competition.
- Australia need to play just eight games to reach the finals, six of which are at home.
- No country would play fewer matches than Australia if they qualify for France '98.
- Only 18 squad players are allowed in each qualifying game.
- Australia, Solomon Islands and Tahiti will play four games each in 11 days.
- Australia's current, and highest, FIFA world ranking is 33.
- Previous winners: Uruguay 1930, Italy 1934, Italy 1938, Uruguay 1950, West Germany 1954, Brazil 1958, Brazil 1962, England 1966, Brazil 1970, West Germany 1974, Argentina 1978, Italy 1982, Argentina 1986, West Germany 1990, Brazil 1994.
- Brazil were the first side to win the original "Jules Rimet Trophy" three times and were awarded the trophy permanently.

WHY THE SOCCEROOS NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD

By Doug Conway of AAP

The road to France begins in Sydney tonight for the Socceroos. If it ever feels too rocky, they need only consult the history books for comfort.

Dismissing their task as a doddle would invite the kiss of death.

But the only obstacles between them and the World Cup finals are Pacific minnows Tahiti and the Solomon Islands, then probably New Zealand, then whichever country finishes fourth in the Asian play-offs.

They have never had it so good, as Harold MacMillan told his subjects when one of them was an England schoolboy international called Terry Venables.

Not for them the tag of nomads of world soccer.

For 32 years Australian sides have slogged it out against long odds in a total of 69 World Cup matches on all six inhabited continents - without question it would have been seven if they played football in Antarctica.

FIFA has forced them to globe-trot countless thousands of kilometres.

At times they must have felt they were enduring the sort of punishment Gilbert and Sullivan thought fit for pool-hall sharks: to perform "on a cloth untrue, with a twisted cue and elliptical billiard balls".

Small wonder that in eight previous attempts they have reached the finals just once, in Germany 23 years ago.

Venables' highly fancied pros need only play two away games to qualify.

Imagine facing nine matches - eight of them away from home - as Johnny Warren's 1970 Mexico hopefuls did.

Or battling through preliminary rounds only to face former world champion Argentina, as Paul Wade's men did in their ill-fated bid for USA '94.

Or eventually confronting an established soccer country like Scotland in home and away legs at opposite ends of the earth, as John Kosmina's team did in a valiant attempt to reach Mexico in 1986.

The 1994 squad had to do battle in both North and South America, from the Canadian prairie town of Edmonton to the soccer passion pit of Buenos Aires, against opponents that included Diego Maradona, rated by some as the best ever to kick a ball.

Socceroos of the past have had to endure desert storms against both Gulf War adversaries, Kuwait and Iraq.

The ears of Peter Wilson's 1978 players still ring with the sound of 90,000 throats baying for their carcasses in pre-revolutionary Iran.

The 1970 team even had to play in Africa.

After winning the qualifying tournament in Seoul, FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous appeared in their hotel foyer to tell them they now had to play racially ostracised Rhodesia in Mozambique.

According to one of those present, the Australians asked: "Where's that?" and Sir Stanley replied: "It's somewhere in the Indian Ocean...does anyone have an atlas?".

The geography was too much even for Sir Stanley. Mozambique actually is on the African mainland, and the Australian's had to play in Laurenco Marques (now Maputo).

As former Australian captain Johnny Warren recalls: "We played the countries no-one else wanted to play".

The Aussies duly sunk Rhodesia before embarking on a novel way of travelling to Israel - overland from Laurenco Marques to Johannesburg, then via Rwanda, Lisbon, Rome, Athens and finally to Tel Aviv: a grand total of 42 hours.

Twenty hours later they played Israel - and to compound the agony, lost 1-0 to an own goal.

Only once have the Socceroos had the chance to qualify by playing just two games - but that was at their first tilt as part-timers back in 1965.

North Korea thrashed them 6-1 and 3-1 in neutral Phnom Penh, but anyone surprised by that was soon set straight when the Koreans bundled the mighty Italians out of England's World Cup, consigning them to a barrage of rotten tomatoes at Rome airport.

The honour of scoring Australia's first World Cup goal fell to 26-year-old Les Scheinflug, currently the national youth coach, who converted a penalty.

But eight years passed before the great watershed, when Jim Mackay's 30 metre net-buster in Hong Kong downed South Korea and got Peter Wilson's Socceroos to the finals for the only time.

Even then the gods were against them. They had to face the two Germanies, the western half of which went on to win the World Cup.

They were far from disgraced but although they managed a draw with Chile, they are yet to score a goal at the highest level.

That's the first aim in France for Terry Venables, Aurelio Vidmar and Company. But first they have to get there.

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A Captain's tale

Paul Wade

The loneliest figure on the terraces when the Socceroos campaign for France 1998 kicks-off will be instantly recognisable.

The "ordinary battler" from suburban Melbourne will be a giveaway, such has been Paul Wade's contribution to soccer for the past decade.

Watching Terry Venables' Socceroos start the charge for France will be a bittersweet experience for the individual dubbed 'Captain Courageous'.

In December 1985, Wade noted: "It was not until I paid my money to stand on the terraces and watch the Socceroos that I really appreciated what it means," he says of Australia's showdown against Scotland. The Socceroos were denied the last remaining World Cup place in Spain.

"It was not until I heard the chant, 'Australia, Australia', echo around Olympic Park that the whole Socceroo experience hit me."

In 1997 there is also a sense of loss.

"It was such a big part of my life and I'd love to be out there now. And I really think we'll do very well."

"I wouldn't get a game these days," Wade adds.

Paul Wade's name will sit well in the history books.

However, Wade is likely to stay within the game.

His infectious love of the sport, a fierce work ethic and an impressive career has set him up as a stayer in the soccer industry.

Melbourne-based 'Age' columnist Patrick Smith wrote: "Wade gave the game much credibility.

"He was a fine player and a wonderful role model for the game".

Not long ago Wade was contemplating playing on until France, with his decision to quit forced on him by a battle-weary body that just stopped responding.

"I honestly just couldn't go on," he says. "I just woke up one morning thinking 'the end is near'. You just knew it was the right decision."

Wade was allowed to choose his own time, bowing out of the Green and Gold last November as a starter against Tahiti in his adopted Canberra home.

"There were definitely tears in my eyes," he said post game, "I promised I wouldn't cry but I couldn't help it, it was the longest walk back off the field that I have ever had."

Wade often recalls listening to the national anthem being sung by 50,000 people at the Sydney Football Stadium, before Australia's 1-1 draw with Diego Maradona's Argentina in that memorable 1993 World Cup qualifying game.

"I've never had more of a sense of national pride than at that moment. For me, that would have to be the highlight that I'll take away from this, the last eleven years." ●

PAUL WADE'S SOCCEROO CAREER:

119 games -

(83 full internationals)

eleven goals.

Socceroo captain from

1990 - 1996.

Socceroo debut versus

Tasmania, in Hobart,

October, 1984.

Full international debut

versus Czechoslovakia,

in Melbourne,

August, 1986.

PAUL WADE'S ERICSSON CUP CAREER:

1984 -
Green Gully
31 games, 6 goals

1985 - 1986
Brunswick Juve
51 games, 11 goals

1987-1994/95
South Melbourne
211 games, 32 goals

1994/95
Heidelberg United
6 games, 0 goals

1995/96 - 96/97
Canberra Cosmos
47 games, 11 goals

(Total includes Cup and Finals games)
546 games, 59 goals

Major Honours
National Championship
- 1984 and 1990/91

National Cup - 1989/90

Player of the Year - 1988

Paul Wade: Played 83 times for the Socceroos.

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The TAHITI Players

RICKY FASSAIN
CLUB: A. S. Pirae
POSITION: Goalkeeper
HEIGHT: 1m 86
D.O.B: 20-5-72

REX FAAURA
CLUB: A. S. Manuura
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 77
D.O.B: 26-8-71

MOISE TETUANUI
CLUB: A. S. Pirae
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 75
D.O.B: 31-5-69

JEAN LUDIVION
CLUB: A. S. Pirae
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 86
D.O.B: 6-10-73

SYLVAIN BOEENE
CLUB: A. S. Dragon
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 74
D.O.B: 31-1-68

EDDY ETAETA
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 75
D.O.B: 21-4-71

STELLIO TIATIA
CLUB: A. S. Manuura
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 68
D.O.B: 2-9-70

HAROLD AMARU
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 75
D.O.B: 3-4-70

OLIVIER DEXTER
CLUB: A. S. Postes
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 80
D.O.B: 8-3-76

TETAIO AURAA
CLUB: A. S. Manuura
POSITION: Forward
HEIGHT: 1m 76
D.O.B: 9-7-73

MARC DOUEPERE
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Forward
HEIGHT: 1m 73
D.O.B: 13-8-65

TEVA RAVETUPU
CLUB: A. S Venus
POSITION: Forward
HEIGHT: 1m 77
D.O.B: 23-12-77

HEIMANA VAIHO
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 88
D.O.B: 18-7-71

VETEA LAISAN (c)
CLUB: A. S. Pirae
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 80
D.O.B: 21-4-71

CALIXTE TETUANUI
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 80
D.O.B: 7-2-73

STEEVE FATUPUA
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Defender
HEIGHT: 1m 69
D.O.B: 12-1-76

MACO NENA
CLUB: A. S. Central
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 92
D.O.B: 23-10-76

JEAN-LOU ROUSSEAU
CLUB: A. S. Venus
POSITION: Forward
HEIGHT: 1m 70
D.O.B: 23-3-70

HEIMANA PAAMA
CLUB: A. S. Dragon
POSITION: Midfielder
HEIGHT: 1m 76
D.O.B: 1-9-75

JIMMY TAHUTINI
CLUB: A. S. Juventus
POSITION: Goalkeeper
HEIGHT: 1m 86
D.O.B: 10-11-77

officials

Reynald TEMARII
President:
Tahiti Football Federation

Eric HENRY
Head of Delegation

Richard VANSAM
Coach

Fabien TINORUA
Gear Steward

SOCCEROOS 1997 Player Profiles

JOHN ALOISI
D.O.B: 5-7-76, Adelaide
CLUB: Cremonese, Italy
POSITION: Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Standard Liege (Bel) Royal Antwerp (Bel)
INT APPEARANCES: Two
INT GOALS: Nil

GRAHAM ARNOLD
D.O.B: 3-8-63
CLUB: Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jap)
POSITION: Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sydney United
INT APPEARANCES: 50
INT GOALS: 16

CRAIG FOSTER
D.O.B: 15-4-69
CLUB: Marconi Fairfield
POSITION: Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: FAS (Sing), Ernst Borel (HK), Adelaide City
INT APPEARANCES: 8
INT GOALS: Nil

ZELJKO KALAC
D.O.B: 16-12-72, Sydney, NSW
CLUB: Sydney United
POSITION: Goalkeeper
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sydney United, Leicester City (Eng), Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
INT APPEARANCES: 23
INT GOALS: Nil

MATTHEW BINGLEY
D.O.B: 16-8-71, Auburn, Sydney
CLUB: Marconi Fairfield
POSITION: Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: St George BSC
INT APPEARANCES: 9
INT GOALS: 3

ROBBIE HOOKER
D.O.B: 6-3-67
CLUB: West Adelaide
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sydney City, Sydney Olympic
INT APPEARANCES: 14
INT GOALS: 2

STAN LAZARIDIS
D.O.B: 16-8-72, Perth, WA
CLUB: West Ham Utd (Eng)
POSITION: Defender/Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Floreat Athena
INT APPEARANCES: 14
INT GOALS: Nil

MARK BOSNICH
D.O.B: 13-1-72, Sydney
CLUB: Aston Villa (Eng)
POSITION: Goalkeeper
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sydney United, Man Utd (Eng)
INT APPEARANCES: 6
INT GOALS: Nil

STEVE HORVAT
D.O.B: 14-3-71, Geelong, Vic
CLUB: Hajduk Split, (Cro)
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Melbourne Knights
INT APPEARANCES: 9
INT GOALS: Nil

CRAIG MOORE
D.O.B: 12-12-75, Canterbury, NSW
CLUB: Glasgow Rangers (Sco)
POSITION: Defender/Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: A.I.S.
INT APPEARANCES: 2
INT GOALS: Nil

ROBERT ENES
D.O.B: 22-8-75, Shepperton, Vic
CLUB: Sydney United
POSITION: Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: A.I.S., Preston, Melbourne Zebras
INT APPEARANCES: 5
INT GOALS: Nil

MILAN IVANOVIC
D.O.B: 21-12-60, Yugoslavia
CLUB: Adelaide City
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUB: Red Star Belgrade (Yug)
INT APPEARANCES: 48
INT GOALS: Nil

DAMIAN MORI
D.O.B: 30-9-70, Melb.Vic.
CLUB: Adelaide City
POSITION: Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Melbourne Knights, Adelaide City, Bor Monchengladbach (Ger)
INT APPEARANCES: 25
INT GOALS: 6

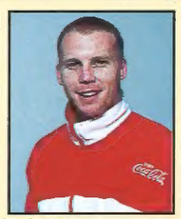
KEVIN MUSCAT
D.O.B: 7-8-73, Crawley, England
CLUB: Crystal Palace (Eng)
POSITION: Defender/Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sunshine George Cross, Sth Melbourne
INT APPEARANCES: 8
INT GOALS: 1

JASON PETKOVIC
D.O.B: 7-12-72, Fremantle, WA
CLUB: Adelaide City
POSITION: Goalkeeper
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Spearwood Dalmatinac
INT APPEARANCES: 3
INT GOALS : Nil

TONY POPOVIC
D.O.B: 4-7-73, Sydney
CLUB: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sydney United
INT APPEARANCES: 19
INT GOALS: Nil

JOSIP SKOKO
D.O.B: 10-12-75, Mount Gambier
CLUB: Hajduk Split (Cro)
POSITION: Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Nth Geelong Warriors, A.I.S.
INT APPEARANCES: 2
INT GOALS: Nil

ROBBIE SLATER
D.O.B: 22-11-64, Ormskirk, Lancs, Eng
CLUB: Southampton (Eng)
POSITION: Midfield
PREVIOUS CLUBS: St George BSC, Sydney United, Lens (Fra), Strasbourg (Fra), Blackburn Rovers (Eng), West Ham Utd (Eng)
INT APPEARANCES: 19
INT GOALS: Nil



ERNIE TAPAI
D.O.B: 14-2-67, Yugoslavia
CLUB: Collingwood Warriors
POSITION: Midfield/Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Morwell Falcons, Estoril (Por), Stoke City (Eng) Adelaide City
INT APPEARANCES: 25
INT GOALS: 2

ALEX TOBIN
D.O.B: 3-11-65
CLUB: Adelaide City
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS: West Torrens Birkalla
INT APPEARANCES: 65
INT GOALS: 2

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI
D.O.B: 19-2-72, Geelong, Vic
POSITION: Forward
CLUB: UTS Olympic
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Geelong, Sunshine George Cross, Sth Melbourne, A.I.S., Preston, Sth China (HK), Adelaide City
INT APPEARANCES: 6
INT GOALS: 7

PAUL TRIMBOLI
D.O.B: 25-2-69
CLUB: Sth Melbourne
POSITION: Midfield/Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Brighton (Vic), A.I.S., Sunshine George Cross
INT APPEARANCES: 25
INT GOALS: 6

TONY VIDMAR
D.O.B: 4-7-70, Adelaide, SA
CLUB: Glasgow Rangers (Sco)
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Adelaide City, Germinal Ekeren, Adelaide City, NAC Breda
INT APPEARANCES: 26
INT GOALS: 1

AURELIO VIDMAR
D.O.B: 3-2-67, Adelaide, SA
CLUB: CD Tenerife (Spa)
POSITION: Midfield/Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: KV Kotrijk, SV Waregarn, Standard Liege, Feyenoord
INT APPEARANCES: 21
INT GOALS: 7

DAVID ZDRILIC
D.O.B: 13-4-74, Sydney
CLUB: Sydney Utd
POSITION: Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: St George BSC
INT APPEARANCES: 3
INT GOALS: Nil

NED ZELIC
D.O.B: 4-7-71, Canberra
CLUB: Auxerre (Fra)
POSITION: Utility
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Canberra, UTS Olympic, Borussia Dortmund (Ger), QPR (Eng), Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
INT APPEARANCES: 20
INT GOALS: 1

The SOLOMON ISLANDS Players

BATRAM SURI
CLUB: Nelson Suburbs (New Zealand)
POSITION: Forward
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Lauga (SI)
INT APPEARANCES: 33

CLIFF SASAU
CLUB: Kossa
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 2

GEORGE KIRIAU
CLUB: Police
POSITION: Forward
INT APPEARANCES: 44

JEFFREY KWAOMAI
CLUB: Kakamora
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 10

SIKELE BUGA
CLUB: Sunbeam
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 1

MOSES TOATA
CLUB: Sunbeam
POSITION: Forward
INT APPEARANCES: 1

DANNY WABO
CLUB: Las United
POSITION: Midfield
INT APPEARANCES: 7

JASON DAMIRI
CLUB: DMP
POSITION: Midfield
INT APPEARANCES: 6

AGUSTINE PELI
CLUB: Las United
POSITION: Midfield
INT APPEARANCES: 4

JIMMY MANEWAI
CLUB: Las United
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 5

NOEL BERRY
CLUB: Rangers
POSITION: Forward
INT APPEARANCES: 7

ROBERT SENI
CLUB: Kossa FC
POSITION: Midfield
INT APPEARANCES: 1

PETER MAUTOA
CLUB: DMP
POSITION: Goalkeeper
INT APPEARANCES: U23 Olympic Qualifier (Aust) 1996 Oceania World Cup qualifier (Aust) 1997

EDDIE RUKUMANA
CLUB: Naha
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 18

TIMOTHY INIFIRI
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 20

SAENI DAUDAU
CLUB: Uncles
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 25

SEVERINO AEFI
CLUB: Las United
POSITION: Goalkeeper
INT APPEARANCES: 15

SELSON MOLEA
CLUB: Uncles
POSITION: Defender
INT APPEARANCES: 2

COLMAN MANIADOLA
CLUB: Naha
POSITION: Midfield
INT APPEARANCES: 7

ANDREW SALA ROCKSON
CLUB: Rangers
POSITION: Midfield
INT APPEARANCES: 5

officials

Roland TIMO
Team manager

Eddie NGAVA
Coach

Nathan FA'AKO
Trainer

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AUSTRALIA'S WORLD CUP HISTORY

Australia played their first full international against New Zealand on June 17, 1922. It resulted in a 1-3 defeat, although just over a year later we defeated the same side 2-1 to secure our first international win.
It wasn't until 1965 that Australia played in their first World Cup campaign.

1966 CAMPAIGN
Australia had to play just two games to qualify for the 1966 finals tournament in England. The first took place in Phnom Penh against North Korea in which Australia lost 6-1. Captain Les Scheinflug scored from the penalty spot in the 70-minute.
The second match saw Australia lose 1-3.
National coach: Tiko Jelisavic
1970 CAMPAIGN
Japan, South Korea and Australia had to play each other twice in a round-robin group format in Seoul (Korea).
Australia defeated Japan 3-1 in the opening game, but drew the return match 1-all. If South Korea gained a victory over Japan, it meant they could overtake Australia by winning their final match.
South Korea took the lead against Australia but a Ray Baartz goal saw the game end 1-1.
Against their next qualifying opponent, Rhodesia, Australia drew the first match 1-1 and the second finished 0-0. Australia won the third and deciding game 3-1.
Australia now had to face Israel in the final eliminator.
Aussie 'keeper Ron Corry was beaten after 18-minutes when a free-kick deflected off David Zeman and into the net.
Israel headed to Australia with just the one goal advantage.
December 14, 1969 and the Sydney Sports Ground fixture (SSG) resulted in a 1-1 draw. Australia were out of the World Cup.
National coach: Joe Vlasits
1974 CAMPAIGN (See special feature)
1978 CAMPAIGN
Australia had to face New Zealand and Taiwan in the Oceania Group, the winner going on to a tournament with the four Asian Group winners.
The results went as follows:
Ba (Fiji), March 13, 1977 - Australia 3 (Rooney 2, Abonyi) Taiwan 0
Ba (Fiji), March 16, 1977 - Taiwan 1 Australia 2 (Kosmina, Abonyi)
SSG, March 27, 1977 - Australia 3 (Ollerton 2, Kosmina) New Zealand 1
Auckland (NZ), March 30, 1977 - New Zealand 1 Australia 1 (Ollerton)
Australia now had to face Hong Kong, South Korea, Iran and Kuwait.
Adelaide, July 10, 1977 - Australia 3 (Kosmina 2, Barnes) Hong Kong 0
Melbourne, August 14, 1977 - Australia 0 Iran 1
Sydney, August 28, 1977 - Australia 2 (Kosmina 2) South Korea 1
Sydney, October 16, 1977 - Australia 1 (Rooney) Kuwait 2
Seoul, October 23, 1977 - South Korea 0 Australia 0
Hong Kong, October 13, 1977 - Hong Kong 2 Australia 5 (Ollerton 3, Abonyi, Bennett)
Kuwait, November 19, 1977 - Kuwait 1 Australia 0
Tehran, November 25, 1977 - Iran 1 Australia 0
National coach: Jim Shoulder
1982 CAMPAIGN
The Australian side were extremely well prepared but, again, just missed out on qualifying for the World Cup Finals.
Auckland, April 25, 1981 - New Zealand 3 Australia 3 (Krncevic 2, Boden)
Sydney, May 16, 1981 - Australia 0 New Zealand 2*
Melbourne, May 20, 1981 - Australia 2 (Kosmina, Boden) Indonesia 0
Adelaide, June 10, 1981 - Australia 3 (Henderson, Kosmina, Byrne) Taiwan 2
Suva, July 26, 1981 - Fiji 1 Australia 4 (Cole 2, Sharne, Barnes)
Melbourne, August 14, 1981 - Australia 10 (Cole 7, Mitchell 3) Fiji 0
Surabaya, August 30, 1981 - Indonesia 1 Australia 0
Taiwan, September 6, 1981 - Taiwan 0 Australia 0
* It was the first time in 27-years that Australia had lost at home to the Kiwis. Rudi Gutendorf resigned as National coach and Les Scheinflug was made the caretaker coach for the remainder of the year.
National coach: Rudi Gutendorf/Les Scheinflug
1986 CAMPAIGN
Frank Arok took charge of the national side and it proved to be a long campaign trail with the final qualifier being a home and away affair with the aggregate score deciding the winner.
Auckland, September 21, 1985 - New Zealand 0 Australia 0 14,826
Tel Aviv, October 10, 1985 - Israel 1 Australia 2 (Mitchell, Kosmina) 45,000
Melbourne, October 20, 1985 - Australia 1 (Ratcliffe) Israel 1 27,000
Adelaide, October 23, 1985 - Australia 7 (Mitchell 3, Dunn 2, O'Connor, Arnold) Taipei 0
Sydney , October 27, 1985 - Australia 8 (Odzakov 3, Kosmina 3, Crino, Gray) Taipei 0
Sydney, November 3, 1985 - Australia 2 (Kosmina, Mitchell) New Zealand 0
Australia qualified and went on to meet Scotland in the final decider.
Glasgow, November 20, 1985 - Scotland 2 Australia 0
Melbourne, December 4, 1985 - Australia 0 Scotland 0
Scotland qualified for the World Cup.
National coach: Frank Arok
1990 CAMPAIGN
Once again Australia would meet New Zealand and Israel in the qualifying tournament.
Sydney, March 12, 1989 - Australia 4 (Crino, Arnold, Yankos) New Zealand 1
Tel Aviv, March 19, 1989 - Israel 1 Australia 1 (Yankos)
Auckland, April 2, 1989 - New Zealand 2 Australia 0
Sydney, April 16, 1989 - Australia 1 (Trimboli) Israel 1
National coach: Frank Arok
1994 CAMPAIGN
Australia had to beat Argentina to qualify for the 1994 World Cup.
Honiara, September 4, 1993 - Solomon Islands 1 Australia 2 (Veart, McCulloch)
Papeete, September 11, 1993 - Tahiti 0 Australia 3 (Mori, Veart, Wade)
Brisbane, September 20, 1993 - Australia 2 (Veart, Durakovic) Tahiti 0
Newcastle, September 26, 1993 - Australia 6 (Genc, Gray, Wade, Veart, G Brown, Durakovic) Solomon Islands 0
Auckland, May 30, 1994 - New Zealand 0 Australia 1 (Arnold)

Now it was the turn of Canada, winners of the CONCACAF group.
Edmonton, July 31, 1994 - Canada 2 Australia 1 (Dasovic og)
Sydney, August 15, 1994 - Australia 2 (Farina, Durakovic) Canada 1
(Australia eventually won 4-1 on penalties: Wade, A.Vidmar, Tobin, Farina)

Argentina
Sydney, October 31, 1994 - Australia 1 (A.Vidmar) Argentina 1 (Balbo)
Buenos Aires, November 17, 1994 - Argentina 1 (Tobin og) Australia 0
Argentina progressed to the competition proper by the aggregate score of two goals to one.
National coach: Eddie Thomson.

Terry Venables and Raul Blanco open a new chapter in Australian soccer as the Socceroos attempt to reach the finals in France, 1998. The trip begins here with the following matches:

June 11, 1997 - Australia versus Solomon Islands
June 13, 1997 - Australia versus Tahiti
June 15, 1997 - Solomon Islands versus Tahiti
June 17, 1997 - Solomon Islands versus Australia
June 19, 1997 - Tahiti versus Australia
June 21, 1997 - Tahiti versus Solomon Islands
June 28, 1997 - Winners Oceania Group A vs Winners Group B (1st leg)
July 5, 1997 - Winners Oceania Group A vs Winners Group B (2nd leg)

OCEANIA/ASIA PLAY-OFFS
Oceania winner versus fourth-best Asian team (home and away)

The 1974 World Cup

By Greg Blake

Australian soccer historians have waited in vain for twenty-three years to write a follow-up chapter to what is still the high water mark for the game in this country.

The Labor Government under Gough Whitlam was just commencing its slide into spectacular oblivion. Mohammed Ali was on the verge of re-claiming his world heavyweight boxing crown; the Berlin Wall stood as silent testament to the Cold War between east and west; the disbanded Beatles were still taking each other to court; all sporting ties with South Africa had been severed and Nelson Mandela had long been a political prisoner.

Aurelio Vidmar was just seven years of age, Mark Bosnich had just learned to walk when the Socceroos of the time sparked the interest of a whole new generation of sports fans who were more used to watching the black and white television images of Manchester United's Denis Law, Peter Lorimer of Leeds United or, perhaps, a vibrant, newly-promoted Queens Park Rangers team captained by Terry Venables.

Australia had made the World Cup Finals in West Germany.

All at once our heroes had names like: Alston, Richards, Ollerton, Warren and Reilly and despite the incredulous disdain of world soccer heavyweights - one Scottish publication of the time said our mix of mostly overseas-born players had: "no right to call itself even remotely Australian" - we held our heads high.

Should Venables lead Australia to France and moderate or better success in 1998, the deeds of the current team would still be hard-pressed to recapture the romance of that glorious journey that started back in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1973.

Some eleven qualifying matches were to follow before Jimmy Mackay scored what was to be a never-to-be-forgotten winner in the final game against South Korea in Hong Kong.

The glory road had its share of potential black spots, starting when Australia had drawn 1-1 in NZ, to start the campaign, only thanks to a late equaliser from substitute Ernie Campbell.

The qualifying series then headed to Australia where the Kiwis and Aussies were joined by Iraq and Indonesia, with player of the series Ray Richards producing a stunning game to help the Aussies beat Iraq 3-1 in Sydney to set the ball rolling.

The Socceroos then beat Indonesia 2-1 before drawing 3-3 with the Kiwis in successive games in Sydney, draw 0-0 with Iraq in Melbourne and thrashed Indonesia 6-0 back in Sydney.

The first phase completed, Australia faced Iran, another Asian sub-group winner, home and away and despite a 3-0 success in front of over 30,000 fans in the Sydney leg, the journey to Tehran could so easily have signalled an Aussie exit.

Two goals in the opening 25-minutes stunned the Aussies, but the grit of Rasic's team was never more apparent than over the ensuing 65-minutes as the Socceroos held out against Iran and 80,000 parochial fans.

That set the stage for the final act in the drama, when the Aussies took on a Korean team fresh off a stunning knock-out of mighty Israel in their sub-group.

Over 32,000 fans watched the Aussies goal-less draw with Korea at the Sydney Sports Ground before more heroics in the return leg in Seoul, when Australia again went two goals down inside 30-minutes only for Branko Buljevic - with a superb strike - and Ray Baartz to tie the game up and send it to a final play-off.

Seventy minutes into that final qualifier Jimmy Mackay became a legend.

His single goal was so grand, so stunning that it made the list of the eight goals of the year in the prestigious Rothmans Football Annual.

Mackay's effort impacted around the world.

"Ray Richards won a free-kick. Jim Rooney stuck the ball out to me and I hit it from about 30 yards," recalled Mackay. "It was the best goal of my career but I didn't realise until half an hour after the game what had happened. It was a great feeling". Team mate Manfred Schaefer, a veteran of the unlucky 1970 Socceroo team, says the party didn't stop for days. "We all knew right there and then that we had qualified for the World Cup finals in Germany," remembers Schaefer. It mattered little that Australia failed to score in their three games in the finals. They were in the toughest group. The losses to East Germany (2-0) and West Germany (3-0) and the scoreless draw with Chile saw Rasic's team exceed expectations.

Here is a complete list of the Australian 1974 World Cup Squad: Jack Reilly, Jimmy Milisavljevic, Allan Maher, Peter Wilson, John Watkiss, Harry Williams, Manfred Schaefer, Col Curren, Doug Utjesenovic, John Warren, Jim Rooney, Jimmy MacKay, David Harding, Ray Richards, Garry Emmanuel, Ernie Campbell, Adrian Alston, Attila Abonyi, Peter Ollerton, Max Tolson, Branco Buljevic, Ivo Rudic, Ray Baartz, Jim Fraser, Ron Corry, Bobby Hogg, Bill Vojtek.●

Mark Bosnich: Pointing to the 1998 World Cup?

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